

IPEA
EPO
D-80298 Munich
Germany

25th March 2005

Dear Sirs

PCT/GB2003/005598
Our ref: QoS (PCT)

Thank you for the second Written Opinion.

The Written Opinion cites the following documents:

D1 WO 01/78319
D2 EP-A-0794646

In light of the citations, the applicant files replacement pages as follows:

Replacement pages 2, 3 and 50 to replace those pages as currently on file.

Triplicate copies will follow by post, together with one set marked to show all changes.

Amended Claim 1 now reads:

1. A method of automatically replicating data objects between a mobile device and a server, connected together via a wireless network, in which the timing of data replication across the network is determined by a network operator applying parameters that make efficient usage of network bandwidth; in which:

(i) a change log lists all objects at the device and/or server to be replicated and the parameters then comprise a weight associated with each object that defines how urgently that object needs to be replicated; and

(ii) the parameters further comprise a threshold that is a function of time, with the weight of each object being locally compared to the threshold at a given time and the outcome of the comparison determining whether the object is sent for replication or not at that time;

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characterised in that all criteria that are relevant to how urgently an object needs to be replicated are represented by a single weight associated with that object.

The new text is shown highlighted.

D1 teaches that many different criteria can be used to determine whether a message can be sent (e.g. maximum message size, maximum time reached, specific type of message, destination address, content identifiers, time of day etc. See page 49 lines 6 – 20; page 51 lines 17-29). Hence, to evaluate whether a given message should be transmitted would require specific algorithms to be run relating to each criteria and potentially complex priority clashes to be resolved. But with the present invention, different criteria are not individually evaluated, but instead an abstract entity called 'weight' is used; 'weight' can model any and all criteria. Evaluation is far quicker and more efficient since it can be simply a matter of comparing a single 'weight' value against a threshold value; because only a single weight criteria is ever compared to the time varying threshold, there are considerable speed and efficiency gains. Where evaluation occurs in a mobile device with inevitable power constraints, speed and efficiency are highly valuable attributes.

In the light of the above arguments, re-consideration of the present application is requested.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Langley